



September 15, 2003

Mary L. Cottrell
Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02110

**Re: DTE 03-60 - Request to Participate of Conversent Communications of
Massachusetts, LLC**

Dear Ms. Cottrell:

By way of this letter, Conversent Communications of Massachusetts, LLC ("Conversent") hereby requests to participate as a party in the above referenced proceeding. Conversent is a competitive local exchange carrier that is certified to provide local exchange and long distance service in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Conversent provides local voice and data services to small and medium-sized businesses in Massachusetts in second and third tier markets by relying on voice grade, DSL, high-capacity DS1, and high-capacity DS3 loops, unbundled dark fiber dedicated transport that Conversent lights using its own electronics, and Conversent's own switches. By relying on this combination of facilities, Conversent has been able to make available voice and data services to small and medium-sized business in smaller cities in Massachusetts where otherwise there would likely be no such competitive alternatives.

In the *Triennial Review Order*, the FCC delegated to the states important responsibilities for applying the FCC's impairment standard to loops, dedicated transport and switching. As noted above, Conversent is reliant on Verizon for access to unbundled loops and transport and therefore is very interested in the part of the proceeding that implements the self-provisioning and wholesale triggers for loops and transport. Moreover, Conversent also relies on Verizon to perform hot cuts for small and medium sized businesses that migrate from Verizon and other carriers to Conversent. To the extent that this proceeding will deal with improving Verizon's existing hot cut procedures, Conversent intends to participate in that matter as well. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Scott Sawyer
Vice President Regulatory Affairs & Counsel
Conversent Communications of Massachusetts, LLC

SS/cw